Generating Set for Hydro Power Project

3409. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to procure/import or manufacture the generating sets and equipments to be installed for hydro power projects under the Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the time by which installation was scheduled to be completed and how far the same has been delayed, indicating the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/propose to be taken to expedite the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) The Unilateral decision of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan to suspend the release of further instalment of loan after disbursement of first slice of Yen 2.85 billion in 1986 due to certain environmental considerations, created an empasse in the procurement of Turbo Generating Sets for River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarovar Project. The delivery of these equipments were originally scheduled between December, 1990 to June, 1994 and installation by August, 1995. However, to sort out the deadlock, several meetings were held at varius levels, both in the State and in this Ministry with all concerned. On 13th November, 1996, a meeting of the Review Committee of Narmada Control Authority (RCNCA) was held. Accordingly, a negotiating team has already been set up by this Ministry to hold talks with M/s. Sumitomo Corporation, Japan, the suppliers of the TG Sets for the Project.

Aloka Palace, Mysore as Museum

3410. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Aloka Palace near Mysore is being used at present by the Chamarajendra Academy of Visual Arts;

(b) if so, whether the Government are giving any assistance to it;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to set up a museum in Aloka Palace;

(d) if so, whether the Karnataka Government are willing to hand over the Palace for museum; and

(e) if so, the type of museum proposed to be set up in the Aloka Palace?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) As per information furnished by the Government of Karnataka, Chamarajendra Academy of Visual Arts (CAVA), an Art Institution of Government of Karnataka has been in possession of Aloka Building near Mysore.

(b) The Government of Karnataka runs the Institution and financial assistance of Rs. 20 lakhs and Rs. 6.81 lakhs under Plan and Non-Plan respectively has been provided during 1996-97 by the Government of Karnataka.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Since Aloka Building is within the reserved forest area in Sy. No. 265 of Yelwala Village, Mysore Taluk, Mysore District, the Forest Dept. of Government of Karnataka in view of the Supreme Court Judgement in W.P. (Civil) 202/95 has taken an objection for non-forest activity there, and has insisted for the transfer of the said building to the forest Department, for their activities.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply of part (c) of the question.

Nehru Yuvak Kendras in Karnataka

3411. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various projects and works taken up and completed by Nehru Yuvak Kendras in Karnataka during the last three years and till-date, year-wise;

(b) the plans, projects and proposals of the Nehru Yuvak Kendras for 1997-98, Kendra-wise;

(c) the sources of income of Nehru Yuvak Kendras to run the activities; and

(d) the base on which assistance is being provided to such Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Minority Communities in Sri Lanka

3412. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the ordeals faced by the minority communities in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) The Government are not aware of ordeals faced by all minority communities in Sri Lanka. However, Government are aware that continued conflict in some areas of Sri Lanka has created acute difficulties